

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00

SAL-01 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 L-03 OIC-02 SP-02 INT-05

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9835

UNCLAS LONDON 04001

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, PORG, IMCO, EWWT

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON SAFETY OF
FISHING VESSELS, 1977

1. IMCO SUBCOMMITTEE ON SAFETY OF FISHING VESSELS
COMPLETED WORK ON ELABORATION OF DRAFT CONVENTION ON
THE SAFETY OF FISHING VESSELS AT ITS 20TH SESSION
(MARCH 8-12, 1976).

2. CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER THIS DRAFT AND PRODUCE
SUBJECT CONVENTION TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD AT
TORREMOLINOS, SPAIN FROM MARCH 7 TO APRIL 2, 1977.
SPANISH DELEGATION HAD OFFERED TORREMOLINOS AS SITE
FOR CONFERENCE; DATES PROPOSED SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY
OF FACILITIES WHICH IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY SPANISH
AUTHORITIES WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS.

3. DETAILED REPORT OF MARCH 8-12 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING,
WILL BE SUBMITTED BY HEAD OF U.S. DELEGATION.

4. COMMENT: AS EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS SITUATION, STATUS
OF U.S. DOMESTIC REGULATION OF SAFETY OF FISHING VESSELS
MAY PRECLUDE U.S. FROM BECOMING A PARTY TO ANY MULTI-
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LATERAL CONVENTION DEALING WITH FISHING VESSEL SAFETY

IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IF THIS IS TRUE, WE EXPECT DEPARTMENT AND OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES WILL WANT TO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN 1977 CONFERENCE. ON THE ONE HAND, WE BELIEVE THERE IS STRONG ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF U.S. PARTICIPATION SO THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE THE FINAL TEXT OF CONVENTION WHICH, WHETHER U.S. BECOMES A PARTY OR NOT, WILL HAVE AN EFFECT ON U.S. FISHING INDUSTRY. IT IS, OF COURSE, SUCH A CONSIDERATION WHICH LED U.S. TO TAKE ACTIVE PART IN IMCO SUB-COMMITTEE'S WORK IN PREPARING DRAFT OF CONVENTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF U.S. NOT IN A POSITION TO ACCEPT MULTILATERAL CONVENTION, PERHAPS CLEAR STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT (PERHAPS IN IMCO MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE) FOLLOWED BY U.S. ABSENCE FROM CONFERENCE MIGHT BE CONSIDERED PREFERABLE. SINCE THE CONFERENCE WILL NOT OPEN FOR A FULL YEAR, THERE APPEARS TO BE AMPLE TIME FOR DEPARTMENT TO COORDINATE VIEWS OF OTHER AGENCIES, THE U.S. FISHING AND FISHING VESSEL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES, AND THE CONGRESS SO THAT A DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE CAN BE MADE IN GOOD TIME.

NOTE: THIS TELEGRAM WAS DRAFTED AFTER THE HEAD OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HAD LEFT LONDON.

ARMSTRONG

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